

In the Claims:

Claims 1-41 are canceled.

Cancel claims 42-61.

1        62. [Currently Amended] A system monitoring apparatus comprising:  
2            a controller configured to access usage information indicative of  
3        ~~consumption of a consumable~~ usage of an expendable which is used over a  
4        period of time by a system to perform hard imaging wherein a plurality of hard  
5        images are formed upon media, to access usage profile data indicative of  
6        ~~expected consumption of the consumable~~ usage of the expendable over the  
7        period of time, to compare the usage information with the usage profile data,  
8        and to generate an alert responsive to the usage information deviating from the  
9        usage profile data.

1        63. [Currently Amended] The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the  
2        ~~consumable~~ expendable comprises a consumable comprising the media.

1        64. [Previously Presented] The apparatus of claim 63 wherein the  
2        media comprises a plurality of sheets of paper.

1        65. [Currently Amended] The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the usage  
2        information indicates ~~consumption of a number of~~ usage of the expendable  
3        comprising one or more consumable items ~~of the consumable~~ over the period of  
4        time.

1        66. [Currently Amended] The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the usage  
2        information indicates wear of the ~~consumable~~ expendable comprising a  
3        component having a fixed useful life.

1        67. [Previously Presented] The apparatus of claim 66 wherein the  
2        controller is further configured to identify the hard imaging comprising a  
3        predetermined type of hard imaging and to adjust the indication of wear  
4        responsive to the identification.

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1        68. [Currently Amended] The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the usage  
2 profile data comprises data derived from prior ~~consumption~~ usage of the  
3 ~~consumable~~ expendable by the system.

1        69. [Previously Presented] The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the  
2 controller is configured to disable at least a portion of the system responsive to  
3 the usage information deviating from the usage profile data.

1        70. [Previously Presented] The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the  
2 controller is configured to disable an entirety of the system responsive to the  
3 usage information deviating from the usage profile data.

1        71. [Previously Presented] The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the  
2 controller is configured to automatically generate a purchase order without user  
3 interaction responsive to the usage information deviating from the usage profile  
4 data.

1        72. [Currently Amended] The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the  
2 controller is configured to access a monetary budget plan with respect to the  
3 ~~consumption~~ usage of the ~~consumable~~ expendable over the period of time, to  
4 determine monetary cost associated with the ~~consumption~~ usage of the  
5 ~~consumable~~ expendable over the period of time, and to generate an alert  
6 responsive to the monetary cost exceeding the monetary budget plan.

1        73. [New] The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the controller is further  
2 configured to identify a type of the hard imaging performed by the system and  
3 to adjust the usage information responsive to the identification.

1        74. [New] The apparatus of claim 73 wherein the controller is further  
2 configured to identify the type of hard imaging comprising hard imaging of a job  
3 comprising a plurality of successive prints of the same page.

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1           75. [New] The apparatus of claim 73 wherein the controller is further  
2 configured to identify the type of hard imaging comprising a predetermined type  
3 of hard imaging and the adjusting comprises adjusting to indicate one of  
4 increased and decreased usage.

1           76. [New] The apparatus of claim 73 wherein the expendable  
2 comprises a component, and wherein the controller is configured to identify the  
3 type of hard imaging and to adjust the usage information comprising wear of the  
4 component responsive to the identification.

1           77. [New] The apparatus of claim 69 wherein the controller is  
2 configured to disable at least the portion of the system to prevent operations  
3 wherein the expendable is used.

1           78. [New] The apparatus of claim 69 wherein the controller is  
2 configured to automatically disable at least the portion of the system responsive  
3 to the usage information deviating from the usage profile data and without user  
4 input.

1           79. [New] A system monitoring method comprising:  
2           accessing usage information indicative of usage of an expendable which  
3 is used over a period of time by a system to perform hard imaging wherein a  
4 plurality of hard images are formed upon media;  
5           accessing usage profile data indicative of expected usage of the  
6 expendable over the period of time;  
7           comparing the usage information with the usage profile data; and  
8           generating an alert responsive to the usage information deviating from the  
9 usage profile data.

1           80. [New] The method of claim 79 wherein the expendable comprises  
2 a consumable comprising the media.

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1        81. [New] The method of claim 80 wherein the media comprises a  
2        plurality of sheets of paper.

1        82. [New] The method of claim 79 wherein the usage information  
2        indicates wear of the expendable comprising a component having a fixed useful  
3        life

1        83. [New] The method of claim 82 further comprising identifying the  
2        hard imaging comprising a predetermined type of hard imaging and adjusting the  
3        indication of wear responsive to the identifying.

1        84. [New] The method of claim 79 further comprising disabling at  
2        least a portion of the system responsive to the usage information deviating from  
3        the usage profile data.

1        85. [New] The method of claim 84 wherein the disabling comprises  
2        automatically disabling using a controller without user input.

1        86. [New] The method of claim 79 further comprising identifying a  
2        type of the hard imaging performed by the system and adjusting the usage  
3        information responsive to the identifying.

1        87. [New] The method of claim 86 wherein the identifying the type of  
2        hard imaging comprises identifying a predetermined type of hard imaging.

1        88. [New] The method of claim 86 wherein the expendable comprises  
2        a component, and wherein the adjusting comprises adjusting the usage  
3        information comprising wear of the component.

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